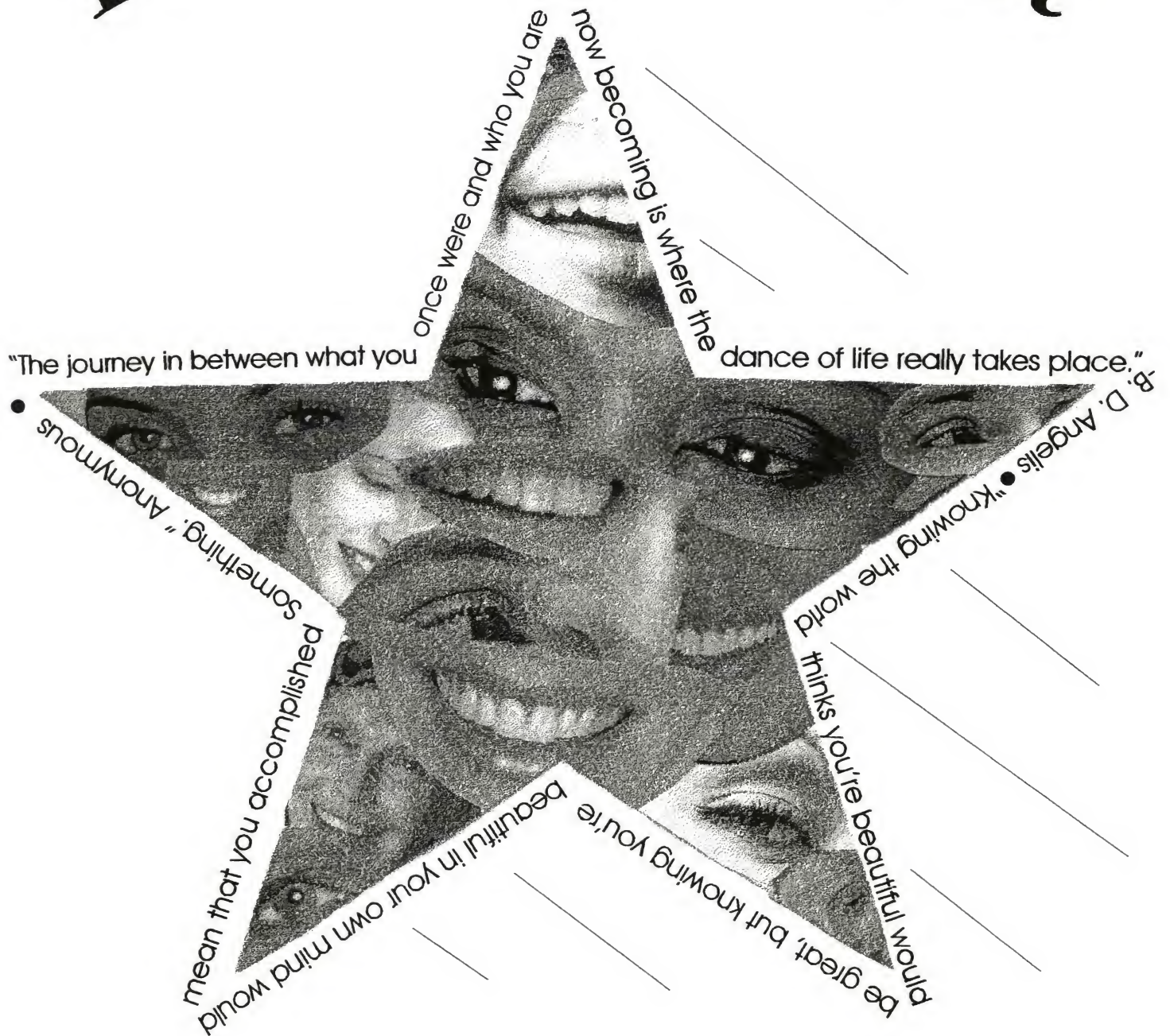


# Femmes d'Esprit



## Welcome Back!

## Editor's Note...

Dear Readers:

The long-awaited September 2001 issue of *Femmes d'Esprit* is finally here! Now that fall has begun, I invite you to take a break from your busy schedule to read through the marvelous articles in this issue.

Included is a farewell to the Class of 2001, as well as an essay from Alumna Kathleen Cravero, Class of '76. Kimberli and Richelle tell us about their adventures at the NE-NCHC conference in Brooklyn this past spring. Vera discusses her graduation plans for December. Sarah talks about her preparations for studying abroad.

We also say goodbye, but not farewell, to a fabulous Honors Program Director, Dr. Ann Raia, and welcome Dr. Lynn Petrullo as the Acting Director. Good luck to all during the school year!

*Heather Wilson*

Heather Wilson  
Editor-September 2001 Issue

## Sept. Femmes Staff

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# Transitions

By: Dr. Ann Raia

By tradition the September newsletter is dedicated to a time of transition in the life of the Honors Program. It inspires feelings in its readers of joy at achievement and regret at loss. It celebrates and bids fare-well to graduates who are already our “newest alumnae,” it welcomes the freshman class—themselves graduates from high school—to membership, and it hails the new status of returning students. This year, I am more directly involved in this transition than usual, for I, now Honors Director Emerita, join the ranks of our graduates, while the Program welcomes Dr. Lynn Petrullo to the position of Acting Director of Honors.

Dr. Petrullo, an Associate Professor of Biology and three-year veteran of the Honors Committee, has graciously accepted the leadership of the Honors Program for a one-year term, while a search is made for a permanent director. When I met with President Sweeny to ask to be relieved of responsibility for the Honors Program, he suggested that the School commit itself to a search for a director with a successful record in honors education, who would teach part time and bring his/her expertise to the administration of the Honors Program. In this way, the School will not only gain an experienced honors director, but could add another faculty member to a department in need of more faculty.

This past year has been one of nostalgic reflection on my part—it is an activity that age and anniversaries tend to precipitate, both of which I have in abundance. The year was filled with stimuli to look back: the College’s special Academic Convocation in celebration of the Honors Program’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the creation with Mary Job of the Honors Alumnae webpage, the realization with Kimberli, Richelle, Mary, and Vera of the concept of a *Femmes* publication dedicated to Alumnae. To these were added administrative assignments: the Honors Program self-study, the Quadrennial Report for 1996-2000, annual reports for ’99-’00 and ’00-’01, and preparation of the Honors files for transfer to Dr. Petrullo.

As a result, I decided that my usual column for the September newsletter would take the form of a response that Honors members are asked to hand in each spring, the Activity Inventory, which, by the way, frequently is not submitted until senior year. While my activities in 2000-2001 can be found in my resume or the annual report, I thought perhaps *Femmes* readers might be interested in my musings on my growth and development in honors. The Honors Program has been an extraordinary education for me for the past 27 years. I am grateful for what it has taught me about what it means to be an educator and a “life-long learner.” It has exercised my mind, challenged my concepts of self and other, inspired me to listen and read, encouraged my curiosity and questioning, rejected my quick answers, fostered my explorations, and ultimately made me free.

I know that I am richer for having been a member of the Program. It has put me in touch with people I might never have met, both on and off the campus, as I worked at shared tasks that had little to do with self-interest. Through these projects, in community, on committees, and in organizations, I learned-by doing and collaborating-how to be an Honors Director. Not all of my lessons were easy or pleasant, nor was I equally successful at all of my tasks, but I learned to take risks, to work with what I had and to the best of my ability, and to accept the outcome of my efforts with satisfaction, in the hope that I would have the opportunity to apply what I’d learned the hard way to the next challenge. I learned to relax and accept that I was as much a student as my students were, professing when I had something to offer, inviting challenges and opposing opinions, and listening carefully when I did not.

Therefore, I would like to thank the many people who, through the Honors Program, gave me a first-rate post-doctoral education: CNR and NCHC students, faculty colleagues, administrators, staff members, NCHC colleagues and leaders, alumnae. It’s been a joy and a personal challenge, and I appreciate and value every minute of the years I spent in honors. As I return to teach in my disciplinary field, the classics, which I love with undiminished passion, I will not cease to support, however I am able, honors education and those who are committed to learning.

## *Keeping the Spirit Alive*

By Dr. L. A. Petrullo



As Dr. Raia described in her article, the fall is a time of many transitions. We all feel it as we return to campus and suddenly realize that many friends are missing since they have graduated from CNR. Dr. Raia has decided to return to teach in her disciplinary field, the classics, making Honors Students feel especially affected at this time of transition.

I have agreed to assume the role as Acting Director for this academic year. At best I will try to fan the flames and keep the spirit alive. I join the freshmen in their fledging year and will rely on the Honors faculty and upper class students for advice and support. In return, I will work closely with you, listen to your concerns, and do my best to guide you over the coming year.

The first few weeks as Acting Director have been a whirlwind. But, I have enjoyed meeting the students and look forward to getting to know everyone better. I already understand the challenges of directing The Honors Program and appreciate many of its rewards.

This is another first, being published in Femmes. *I thank and congratulate the editors of this issue, Heather and Kimberli. I am so pleased to have been included in this important Honors Program tradition.*

.....

## **THE EDITORS OF THE SEPTEMBER FEMMES ISSUE WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY...**



# **WELCOME!**

# Here we are!

## Honors Fall 2001 Members

### HONORS COMMITTEE

Dr. Anne McKernan  
Dr. Cynthia Kraman  
Dr. Lynn Petrullo, Acting Director  
Dean RoseMarie Hurrell

### HONORS BOARD

Professor Cristina DeGennaro  
Dr. Dennis Ryan

#### *Class of 2001 (December)*

Amanda Cartagena  
Sara Cross  
Marcela Kacmarova  
Vera Chernysheva

#### *Class of 2002*

Estela Garcia, Board  
Paula Hughes  
Erica Pitts  
Faith Racette, Board  
Sa'dia Rehman  
Meghan Toomey

#### *Class of 2003*

Sarah Bixler  
Erin Churchill, Board  
Emma Coble  
Laura Cook  
Jennifer Crowhurst  
Odessa Davis  
Margarita Ganeva  
Jessica Hamilton  
Sharon Matthie  
Ria Morrison  
Sophia Small-Warner  
Cara West  
Laura Wiltshire, Board

#### *Class of 2004*

Kadiatu Conteh  
Carla Eisenstein, visiting semester  
Richelle Fiore  
Allison Jarosz  
Elizabeth Lasek  
Patricia Liegel  
Kimberli Ringel-Kane, Board  
Jordan Russ  
Heather Wilson, Board

#### *Class of 2005*

Vanessa Ceron  
Michele Dola  
Maria Gonzalez  
Amy Gutierrez  
Kerri Hellwig  
Amanda McGuirt  
Allyssandra Pane-Berrios  
Amanda Peck, Board  
Amy Perry  
Jennifer Pinheiro  
Alana Ruptak  
Tamra Sheehan  
Hillary St. Pierre  
Emily Williams  
Samantha Young, Board

# FALL 2001

## HONORS CALENDAR

### September

- Mon 3 Returning students move in
- Tues 4 Freshman Convocation and Reception: 12:45-2 pm, Chapel  
Freshman-Sophomore Mentors  
Supper: 5 pm, Leland Room  
Orientation Committee's "Coffee Can" Workshop: 6-7:30 pm, Leland Room
- Thurs 6 Honors Chairs Meeting: 12:30-2 pm, MC Room 160
- Fri 7 Freshman Film Forum: "House of Mirth," 3:30 pm, SCC Room C
- Fri 14 Freshman Orientation: "New Rochelle as Text," 3:30 pm
- Tues 18 All-Member Meeting: 12:30-2 pm in SCC-C
- Thurs 20 SGA Activities Fair: 12:30-2, SCC Terrace
- Mon 24 Freshman Orientation: Learning Styles Workshop, Dr. Susan Baum: 3:30 pm, Iselin Room
- Tues 25 Satellite Seminar: The Human Drive for Community. Seminar #1 "The Marginalized Community" 7:30-9 pm, Romita Auditorium

### October

- Tues 2 HONORS BOARD MEETING: 12:40-1:50 pm, Honors Center
- Mon 8 Columbus Day
- Tues 9 Satellite Seminar: The Human Drive for Community. Seminar #2 "The Isolated Community" 7:30-8:30 pm, Romita Auditorium
- Wed 10 Monday schedule
- Thurs 18 HONORS BOARD MEETING: 12:40-1:50, Honors Center

- Tues 23 Satellite Seminar: The Human Drive for Community. Seminar #3 "Exploration of Community Through the Arts & Humanities" 7:30-8:30 pm, Romita Auditorium
- Thurs 25 Founder's Day
- Wed 31 NCHC 2001 Conference: Palmer House Hilton, Chicago

### November


- (5-15: Advisement; 19-21: Registration)
- Sat 3 Honors Convocation, 10:30 am, Chapel
- Tues 6 Satellite Seminar: The Human Drive for Community. Seminar #4 "The Livable Urban Community" 7:30-8:30 pm, Romita Auditorium
- Thurs 8 Honors Advisement: 12:15-2 pm, Honors Center
- Thurs 15 HONORS BOARD MEETING: 12:40-1:50, Honors Center
- Tues 20 Satellite Seminar: The Human Drive for Community. Seminar #5 "The Future of Community" 7:30-8:30 pm, Romita Auditorium
- Thurs 22 Thanksgiving Recess
- Mon 26 Classes Resume

### December

- Thurs 6 HONORS BOARD MEETING: 12:30-1:50 pm, Honors Center
- Fri 10 Honors Holiday Party: 3:30-5 pm, Castle Gallery  
Hanukkah
- Tues 25 Christmas
- Wed 26 Kwanza

## Freshwomen Profiles!

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Vanessa Ceron

Vanessa is from the Bronx. She is majoring in Communication Arts and is going to minor in Business. She enjoys shopping, hanging out with friends and loves to go dancing. This summer she spent her time vacationing and going to the beach.



Michelle Dola

Michelle is from Selden, Long Island. She plans to major in Communications. In High School she was co-editor of the newspaper called *The Phoenix*. She was involved in the drama club and is a member of the Thespian Society. She is also an active member in her church and volunteers often to collect school supplies for needy families in her parish. She has been an altar server and usher at mass.



Maria Gonzalez

Maria is from Torrington, Connecticut. Her major is Studio Art. In high school she was the president of Oblivion, which is a non-profit youth rights organization. Her summer activities included mural painting.




Amy Gutierrez

Amy is from Englewood, New Jersey. She plans to major in Biology. This summer she spent her time traveling and spending time with her friends.



Kerri Helling

Kerri is from Keansburg, New Jersey. She is a Communication Arts major. In high school she played softball, was the treasurer of the Key club, and got involved in various clubs, such as, yearbook, National Honors Society, National Art Honor Society, Environmental Club, Drama. Over the summer she worked two jobs and enjoyed spending time with her friends.



Amanda McGuirt

Amanda is from Lexington, North Carolina. She is an Art Therapy major. Her hobbies include playing bass and making jewelry. She spent her summer at Myrtle Beach, playing with her garage band and working as a waitress.



Allyssandra Pane-Berrios

Allyssandra is from New Rochelle. Her major is undecided. Her hobbies include ultimate Frisbee. Over the summer she spent her time working and saw a lot of movies.



Amanda Peck

Amanda is from Lempster, NH, a very small town, of only about 900 residents. She is majoring in Biology and Chemistry/Pre-Med, in order to attend med school after CNR. In high school, her main school activities were the Thespian Society and the National

Honor Society. She also did a lot of volunteer work and worked part time from sophomore year to senior year. Her main goal this summer was to spend time with family and her fiancé. She also worked part time in a local bakery, decorating cakes.



Amy Perry

Amy is from Westbrook, Maine. While in high school she participated in band, SADD, the National Art Honor Society, and theatre. This past summer, she worked full time.



Jennifer Pinheiro

Jennifer is from Somerset, MA. She plans to major in the Classics (Latin and Greek) with education certification. She was captain of the Math Team, president of JCL (Junior Classical League) and was on the Chess Team, President of Amnesty International, Captain of the Soccer Team, and in the AV Club. She was on the Tech Crew for drama, participated in her church groups (like youth group) and she was a teacher of CCD for a few years. Her summer activities include work, work, and more work at Hathaway Manor in New Bedford.



Alana Ruptak

Alana is from New Jersey. Her major is Art Therapy with education certification. Her hobbies include volunteering for the homeless and less fortunate, reading, writing, art, campus ministry, and photography. This summer she was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. She also traveled and worked at a nursing home.



Tamra Sheehan

Tamra is from Dracut Layer, Massachusetts. She is planning to major in Biology. In high school, she was on the yearbook committee and the student council. She was also a member of her school's band, as well as the color guard. Over the summer she spent her time going to the movies, swimming and going on vacation.




Hillary St. Pierre

Hillary is from New Hampshire. She is a Communication Arts major. This past summer she traveled and worked as a paraprofessional teaching autistic youth. In the future, she aspires to travel the world as a missionary.



Emily Williams

Emily is from Mendham, New Jersey. She is a Studio Art major. In high school she was part of the art club and service club. She also participated as a peer leader. She spent most of her summer as a lifeguard and taught children how to swim. She also traveled to France for two weeks with her family to visit their French exchange student.



Samantha Young

Samantha is from Milan, New Hampshire. She is an English major. She loves video games. She plays tennis and is involved in drama. Over the summer she worked at a children's theme park called 'Storyland.'

# Freshwomen-Sophomore Mentor List

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## Class of 2005

Michele Dola  
Samantha Young

Amanda McGuirt  
Kerri Hellwig

Amanda Peck

Jennifer Pinheiro  
Allyssandra Pane-Berrios

Alana Ruptak  
Maria Gonzalez

Tamra Sheehan  
Amy Gutierrez

Hillary St. Pierre  
Vanessa Ceron

Emily Williams  
Amy Perry

## Class of 2004

Trysha Liegel

Kimberli Ringel-Kane

Jordan Russ

Richelle Fiore

Elizabeth Lasek

Allison Jarosz

Heather Wilson

Kadiatu Conteh

Want to know what you are signed up to take?

Read on...



Honors Critical Essay: "Identity"

Dr. Cynthia Kraman 3 Credits

Honors Center MW 9:35-10:50

In this reading and writing seminar, you will focus on "Identity." The course will examine the particular moral issues which face women in fiction and how these affect the cultural perception of women in contemporary society.

Alternative Ideologies

Dr. Dennis Ryan 3 Credits

Honors Center F 10-12

Every culture has governing paradigms. This class offers the opportunity to understand some ideologies of the East, specifically those that originated in Ancient India and China. These fundamental ideas developed into a "classical" expression in particular social and historical environments. They continued to be handed down over the centuries in ever more diverse expressions. Besides looking at the origins and classical articulation of these concepts, we will also look at some more recent formulations, beginning with ancient philosophy in China. Not only will we be using texts, you will also visit Buddhist centers in the NYC area.

Freshwomen Seminar: "The Self in Context"

Dr. Nick Smart 3 Credits

Honors Center MW 11-12:15

This is a required course that seeks to introduce the freshmen to the liberal arts curriculum, encourage reflection on self and goals, and strengthen expressive and critical thinking skills.

The Human Drive for Community

Dr. Judith Gordon 3 Credits

Honors Center W 2-4

Using the National Collegiate Honors Council and Phi Theta Kappa 2001 Satellite Seminar Series "Customs, Traditions, and Celebrations: The Human Drive for Community" as a jumping-off point, this course will explore the concept of community and its application in a variety of contexts. Satellite seminar sessions will focus on: the marginalized community, the isolated community, the exploration of community through arts and humanities, the livable urban community, and the future of community.

Senior Symposium

Dr. Ann Raia 1.5 Credits, per semester

Honors Center TU 6-8pm

This capstone seminar challenges Honors Seniors to demonstrate and share with each other their creativity, communication skills, disciplinary understanding, critical thinking, intellectual independence, and leadership talents. The Symposium content is issue-centered and determined each year by individual students, mentors, and the senior class.

Gender and Contemporary Visual Culture

Professor Cristina DeGennaro 3 Credits

MC B3 TH 1:50-4:20

"A picture is worth a thousand words." In *Gender and Contemporary Visual Culture* we study the role of contemporary images in the cultural construction of gender and identity. The class will examine both dominant and transgressive models of gender as presented in the media, popular culture, and the fine arts.

# The Study Abroad Experience

By: Sarah Bixler

*The Study Abroad Experience.* Those are some magical words. They are words that leap from glossy pages in program brochures filled with images of students in far-off places having the time of their lives. But that could never be me. That is something I only wish I could do. No, as much as I would love to, it's just not a possibility. Or is it?

I was sitting on the dorm room bed of a close friend (you know, the bed that doubles as a couch, a study space, a dinner table, and other sundry pieces of furniture you take for granted before you live in a dorm), when I picked up a catalog haphazardly tossed there. She casually mentioned that it was something she had received in the mail without solicitation, but it seemed pretty cool none the less. So, being bored, I began to thumb through the pages. That was it. I was hooked. I wanted to go, needed to go, and I would have to find a way to get myself there. This catalog, now a bible of sorts in my eyes, was the product of AIFS, the American Institute of Foreign Study. It explained enticingly the endless possibilities of studying in any one of several far-off lands.

My first instinct was France. I speak fluent French, but have never had the opportunity to use these skills outside of the classroom. That thought was quickly banished when I thought about my major. Biology and Medicine are hard enough in English. I don't need to complicate things with another language. So, I saw London. Ah, London! English speaking, relatively tourist-friendly from what I had heard, and a mere three hour train ride from dreamy Paris. Yes,

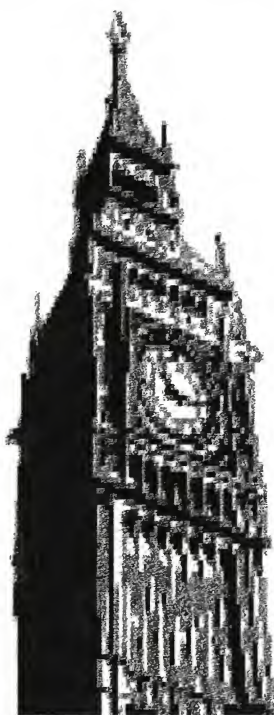
London would be it.

So, with location down, I considered the most daunting obstacle in my path to international studies. The money. Studying abroad is not cheap, and unfortunately I didn't have an extra twelve grand hanging around. But, there is a little-known, well-kept secretive fact on the CNR campus. Here lives a man by the name of Dr. Taylor. If you don't know this man, you should. He is one of the kindest, most in-

telligent, and most generous men I have ever come across. What many do not know is that Dr. Taylor offers scholarships for students interested in studying abroad, whether it is for a semester, a year, or a summer program. There is an application process, including a personal interview with Dr. Taylor. I was intimidated at first, but my anxiety quickly subsided upon our introduction. He is a wonderful man who wants to do everything he can to help to students at CNR. So, if you're interested, make sure to sit down and have a chat with him.

Through the help of the scholarship, I was half-way there. I would still need the fi-

nancial support of my parents, and long hours on my own job, but I knew I was on my way. I applied to AIFS, was accepted, and the wheels began to turn. My parents agreed to help me out as best they could, and my summer has been spent putting in overtime to save my money. And here I am, less than two weeks before my August 21 departure, and I'm scared to death. Well, maybe scared isn't the right word. Nervous, maybe, and excited beyond belief. I guess in many ways it still doesn't seem real to me. I have my passport and my luggage (how does a girl pack for



*Big Ben*

*(Cont. on pg. 22)*

## Pomp and Circumstance... in December

by Vera Chernysheva

Graduation. I am only a semester away from the reality. It took four years of scheduled days, registration battles, bursar bills, sleepless nights, coffee and Mountain Dew supplies, and endless, creative excuses to professors to get here. In a semester, the four long years of digging out the knowledge is going to be summed up on in a 8x11 inch paper slip with the dear title "Bachelor of Arts" glowing on the page. I have fixed all my senses and brain on the day when this paper will appear in my hands for so long, that now, with the dream coming true in only four months, I catch myself thinking, "Now what to do?"

My higher education began as an Undecided major. Then, it gained the more sophisticated name of Liberal Arts. For my parents, it sounded like a very important and intimidating degree. Then, my major started changing with every semester. "My major? Today I am majoring in Business with a concentration in International Business and getting a minor in Radiology," I recall responding to my Father once. Eventually, he gave up following my rapidly changing dreams. So now, my excitement over becoming a starving actress in New York City did not cause my parents a panic attack.

The English Language and Literature major has stuck with me for over a year. To my parents, such stability seems to be a symbol of their daughter's maturity and a promise of her more certain future. I don't have the heart to confess to them that even now – a semester away from graduation – my commitment to the Undecided major is as strong as ever.

There has not been a single doubt for my professors and friends that graduate school is my next destination. To me, it seems to be a solution as well, but not because I possess the same hunger to learn, but because I have no idea how to do anything else but study. I must really love the way the word "Student" looks under the occupation category on my tax return forms. I officially confess – I have become a nerd.

So, I spent my last summer as a nerdy undergraduate student searching for the higher education institutions that would be willing to agree with my self-vision: that I have the potential to become a brilliant scholar. "So, do you think your Ivy League University will allow me to get a doctorate in anything and give me a full ride, as long as I get to pitch a tent in its Library?" is the question that I frequently wanted to ask the admissions staff, but would end up requesting only an application.

Higher education, as exciting as it can be for one's intellect, consists of the same obstacles that one overcomes when entering a college as an undergraduate. The only difference is in the title. For example, do you remember the turmoil of the SAT? Well, the high school nightmare of drilling the *pia mater* for the dreaded test has returned to me this summer.

Except, now the nightmare is called GRE. The GRE score is that magic number that will determine the library of which university I will pitch my tent in; thus, it is crucial. So, GRE practice drills to a future scholar are as ballot instructions to Florida residents. I am really not good at these GRE analogies, but you get my point.

The list of obstacles increases for those of us who are the lucky December graduates. The majority of graduate programs insist on having September as the only possible season for entering and refuse to admit any brilliant scholar in midyear. That means that the spring semester of this academic year I can still spend as a starving actress in New York City. While dreaming of grad schools and sweating the GRE practice drills, I am, however, still confronted with the reality of my current college life. I have yet to finish at CNR. Or is it the other way around? This fall semester I return to CNR to establish a victory over the last CORE and departmental requirements. I also return to fulfill my last duties in the exciting and demanding life called Student Activities. There is a prideful hope that I will be able to leave behind the

(Cont. on pg. 22)

# Committee Overviews

As a member of the Honors Program, you are expected to develop your leadership abilities and take responsibility for Honors Program activity. One of the requirements for the Honors Diploma is a record of consistent Honors leadership. You can begin your leadership development as a freshman by participating in committees of your choice and by attending Honors events.

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## **Honors Board**

Dr. Anne McKernan  
Professor Cristina DeGennaro  
Dr. Cynthia Kraman  
Dr. Dennis Ryan  
Dr. Lynn Petrullo, Acting Director  
Dean RoseMarie Hurrell

---

## **Honors Board Representatives**

Senior Class: Estella Garcia & Faith Racette

Junior Class: Erin Churchill & Laura Wiltshire

Sophomore Class: Kimberli Ringel-Kane &  
Heather Wilson

Freshmen Class: Amanda Peck & Sam Young

The Honors Board is responsible for assisting the Director and the Honors Committee to set policies and administer The Honors Program, monitoring Honors committees, undertaking assessment, and developing the curriculum. It consists of the Honors Committee, two additional members of the faculty chosen by the membership and two elected student representatives from each class.

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## **Activities Committee**

Chair: Jennifer Pinheiro

This committee organizes activities of interest to Honors students. It raises funds to send students to NCHC conferences and for graduating senior gifts. Car washes, raffles and candy-grams are some of the successful fundraisers this committee has organized.

## **Holiday Party Committee**

Chair: Marcella Kacmarova

Members: Class of 2005

Every year the Freshman class plans the December holiday party for the Honors Program.

## **National Collegiate Honors Council Committee**

Chair: Vera Chernysheva

Members: Jennifer Crowhurst & Richelle Fiore

This committee encourages student use of the college's national and regional institutional memberships by facilitating attendance at the annual fall national and spring regional conferences, encouraging articles, workshops, and election for office, and advertising Honors Semesters.

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### **Publicity Committee**

Chair: Laura Cook

This committee creates and distributes flyers for Honors events and produces designs for Honors publications. It produces the monthly Honors Calendar, which highlights Honors events, announces student birthdays and activities of interest to Honors students.

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### **Myths We Live By Committee**

Chair: Odessa Davis, Sharon Matthie

In collaboration with the Women's Studies Program, the committee organizes conversations with faculty, staff, and students in order to probe and explode the cultural myths in life and art that entrap women.



### **Liaisons**

Black History Month:

Ria Morrison

Women's Studies Comm:

Sara Cross & Sa'dia Rehman

### **Honors Webpage Committee**

Web Editor: Kimberli Ringel-Kane

The Honors Homepage is serviced by the Webmaster and her committee. They create and update webpages with useful information and images. Committee members are trained in the use of web programs, such as HotMetal Pro and Dreamweaver, and Photoshop.

See: [www.cnr.edu/home/honors](http://www.cnr.edu/home/honors)

### **Femmes D' Esprit**

Editors: Jessica Hamilton & Heather Wilson

Layout: Kimberli Ringel-Kane

Staff: Cara West & Allison Jarosz

*Femmes D' Esprit* is the Honors Program's nationally recognized newsletter (it won NCHC awards in 1998 and 2000), staffed and produced by student members. Issued at least three times a year, it features articles by students, poetry, student/faculty seminar profiles, artwork, committee notes, scholarship/internship/job opportunities and other announcements.

# The Heights of Brooklyn

Composed by Kimberli Ringel-Kane

I had the pleasure of going to the North East Regional NCHC Conference held in Brooklyn, New York, over April 27-29, 2001. As a college freshman, this was my first Honors Conference. What an experience!

As part of the *City as Text* assignment, I chose to investigate the Twin Towers, Battery Park, and the surrounding areas. Arnold, our tour guide, was great! After riding the subway, we were off to explore Battery Park. The group learned that the word “battery” is another word for fort. After visiting Battery Park, we walked a little more and came across Castle Clinton. Ironically, Castle Clinton was also a fort when first built, but it has had a couple of incarnations since then. It turned into an amphitheater where New Yorkers came and listened to live performers, then became the immigrant headquarters, an aquarium, and finally a museum. Despite all of the changes, Castle Clinton almost was knocked down in order for a bridge to be built. Eleanor Roosevelt saved it, urging her President husband, FDR, to veto the bill. From Castle Clinton, the group said goodbye to Arnold, and wandered through Wall Street, saw the Twin Towers, the Custom House, Trinity Church, the Woolworth Building, and other various places of interest.

Brooklyn turned out to be different from what I had expected. Friday night we ate with the entire conference group at the Presidential Dinner. Former Regional Presidents were introduced, and then everyone had the pleasure of listening to the current President, Jim Lacey, give a speech about the conference.

Saturday was an extremely busy day. Dr. Francis Greene gave a seminar titled “Urban Archi-

ture.” He showed us slides and explained the four forms of architecture: functional, eclectic, modern, and post-modern. We had wonderful discussions on each of the buildings, some of which I had seen the previous day. I would like to go into the field of architecture after graduating CNR, so these two days proved to be heaven for me. I had the best time!

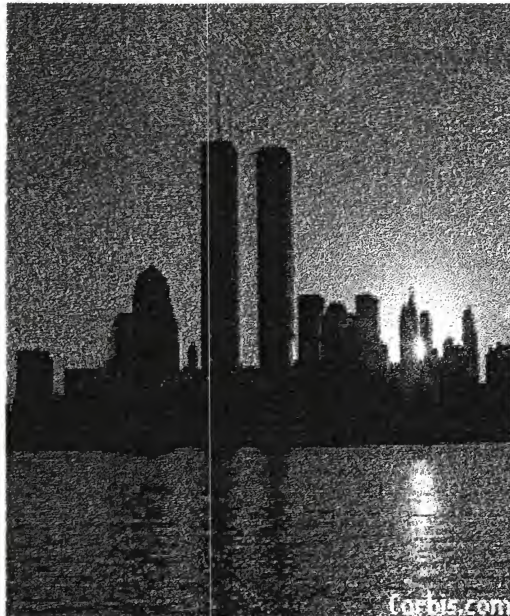
After that seminar it was off to lunch and to the presentation that CNR students had been invited to make titled “Student-Run Publications.” With the help of a very generous senior, Mary Job, our presentation was a great success.

We broke into small groups to troubleshoot different problems with participants’ newsletters and newspapers. I gave a brief lecture on layout design. We were complimented numerous times, and exchanged email addresses with participants, with whom we will continue communicating the rest of the year. I was very proud of our workshop.

Finally, Sunday came and it was time to pack up, go home (if the CNR dorm can be considered home) and be debriefed about our wonderful

weekend. Some thoughts we shared: a director needs to be there to help the students, especially first timers; preparation in advance for the presentation is a must; good communication is key to a successful conference.

Overall, this experience was one that I will cherish always. I never imagined that I could have so much fun at a school-related event. People were extremely friendly and open, willing to talk and make friends. Being an outgoing person myself, this was where I shone. I am looking forward to attending the next Honors conference, wherever it happens to be.



Twin Towers

# The Great Escape

By Richelle Fiore

It's amazing how a location change has the ability to entirely change your disposition! The week preceding the NE-NCHC Conference in Brooklyn I was grappling with the onslaught of papers, tests, projects, demands at work, and the general chaos that surrounds college communities as the end of the semester approaches. As a freshman, coping with all these external pressures was starting to chip away at my hold on sanity. Who knew that Brooklyn would be the answer to so many of my problems?

The conference was an amazing experience. "City as Text" was an exceptional learning experience. I selected the option to investigate Greenwich Village. Although I had been to the East Village on many occasions, this experience was different. I was in a group of two students from Syracuse University and one from St. Elizabeth College, none of whom were familiar with New York. I was the tour guide, which was a scary thing, due to my utterly deplorable sense of direction. After a few wrong turns (we went downtown to Brooklyn first instead of going Uptown to Manhattan), we arrived on 14th Street.

We walked first down to the East Village and sought out Chumley's, an old ex-speakeasy. As it once was, it is currently a hole in the wall where writers meet. The historian of the place was there on his laptop and divulged some of the history, along with tidbits about recent visitors: Frank McCourt was just there a few weeks ago. We then walked to the harbor, took some pictures, walked along Christopher and Greenwich Street, and walked up Charles Street. We discovered interesting shops and had a nice lunch. It's such a lovely little spot, peaceful, but I'm too poor to live there (I realized this when I went into an antique shop to drool over a small end table that would be perfect in my bedroom at home). We walked into Chelsea and then looped back and sat in Union Square

Park for a while. We ventured to a spot by a fountain and enjoyed the warmth and sunlight. There is nothing like sitting in the grass by a fountain listening to the sounds of the City as you're reading *Song of Myself*. A true Brooklyn experience.

That Friday night was the Presidential dinner, with a speech given by NE-NCHC president Jim Lacey. Dinner was good, with the exception of a weird combination of peppers and mushrooms that none of us were crazy for. My dinner companions were Kimberli Ringel-Kane, my classmate from CNR, and the people she met from her "City as Text" group. During dinner we entered into a debate about modern rap music and rock music from the fifties with a history professor. We discussed the parallels between Elvis Presley and Eminem and the paradox of the music industry. The industry seems to find sensations in

white men who are able to sound like and imitate the attitudes of black men. The professor was from Westfield State, a college about twenty minutes from my house, where I took a summer course two years ago (my only touch of hometown pride, while Kimberli had many moments. She was a Maryland magnet!)

The workshops on Saturday were appealing. I attended a workshop on "Urban Glass." I was confused about what this actually was and disappointed that I didn't get into the workshop on Harlem Renaissance Literature. My workshop involved our traveling down the street to *Urban Glass*, an artistic workshop that focuses on glass blowing. It was wonderful. We got a tour of the studio and watched as two artisans, Justin and Andy, worked on two pieces. They even gave us an opportunity for limited participation. I discovered that I haven't the lungs for glass blowing and the steel rods that the glass is attached to is far too heavy for me. Oh well, I guess I'll have to choose another profession!

The College of New Rochelle students had been invited to give a workshop on "Student-Run Publications." Initially, Kimberli and I were nervous

(Cont. on pg. 22)

# Hooding and Awards!

Written by Lisa Mecca

The conclusion of our college career was enacted on May 23, 2001. The four years of study and research quickly evolved into the beginning of a brand new life journey. It was a time of celebration, where “the end justified the means.”

Hooding and Awards Ceremony is a tradition at The College of New Rochelle. It was during this event that the leaders and achievers were able to showcase their accomplishments during their college career.

Honors Program graduates were, of course, leading players. All Honors Program seniors succeeded in their majors, acquiring Departmental Honors. In addition, Rebecca Teetsel was the recipient of the Achievement Award in Biology, Katherine Donovan was named outstanding graduate in the fields of Psychology and Women’s Studies, and

Mary Job was the recipient of the President’s Award. This traditional ceremony also marked the graduates’ inauguration into the ranks of Honors alumnae. It may have felt as if the four years passed by right before our eyes; however, that was not always the case, especially when we first entered college.

For many of us, our first college semester began on Wednesday, September 3, 1997. INS was still a relatively new course and we were the last class to have “Cultural Legacies” as a requirement. As members of the Honors Program, we chose to add requirements to our degree, such as Colloquium and Senior Symposium. During these four years, the Honors Program provided a forum of intellectual debate

and discussion. This compelled us to analyze and question situations more rigorously. Sometimes our questions were frivolous, such as: “You call this art?” “Who is this Tocqueville guy?” “Speakeasy? I thought that ceased to exist with prohibition?” Other questions led to thought-provoking self-explorations.

As the first graduating class of the new millennium, this is a time of reflections and resolutions. Whether it was for a thesis, independent study or for Senior Symposium, during the course of our college career, we all tackled many interesting topics. We grappled with pressing issues, all of great relevance to society, as we emerged into a new world era. This era is filled with controversies, such as DNA testing, cloning and the use of antibiotics in farm animals. It is an

era of new concerns, such as preserving personal privacy in the digital age or protecting children from school violence. It is also an era to continue the fight for the advancement of women worldwide. Although it may seem redundant to many to recapitulate the progress made by women, it is only necessary, since The College of New Rochelle and the Honors Program, in



Mary Job, Lisa Mecca,  
Denise Abatemarco

particular, have embraced the idea of empowering women. In our personal curriculum or through classes offered by the Honors Program, we are reminded that it was not always easy to be a woman in American society. There was a time when receiving a college education in order to pursue a professional goal was unconventional. Laws that discriminated against women were allowed to remain and the one place with the power to reverse unconstitutional practices dismissed women as unfit to work on the top policies of the day. That place was the U.S. Supreme Court.

Recently, Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave a speech at Washington University where she spoke of a woman named Flo



*Christina Cortey, Angela Manning*

rence Ellinwood Allen. Allen was elected to the Ohio Supreme Court in 1922 and was the first woman to serve in such a position. She was also the woman who compelled the Truman administration to contemplate the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice (it was rejected after President Truman conferred with the Chief Justice at that time). Despite the fact that she was highly qualified for the position, this would not become a reality, as the Chief Justice, along with some associate Justices, believed that a "woman's presence would inhibit conference deliberations." The integration of women on our nation's highest court would not occur until 1982, when President Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor. Currently, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins her, as the only two women to hold this position. Equality for women has always been a formidable challenge. Although progress has been slow, we must be thankful for the tremendous contributions of the previous generation and continue the struggle for the generation succeeding us.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the profound insights of Dr. Beverly Bruce, our Commencement speaker. She spoke about an experience she endured that bears some parallels to the story of Florence Ellinwood Allen. She shared with the candidates for the degree that she had been denied a position due to the color of her skin, an irrelevant factor that has been the cause of discrimination for many African Americans. She did prevail. However, it is

cases such as hers which make it all the more important to question whether or not we are complacent with the standards of our time. As a human rights activist, she worked to improve the lives of refugees in Africa and expressed how sex and vulnerability many times led to discrimination and abuse. As an international aid worker, her long list of accomplishments, from her chairship of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children to her Assessment of the conditions of refugees at the International Conference on Refugees, is extraordinary. Her speech complemented the array of human rights courses offered at CNR and incorporated into the Honors Program.

We are now embarking into a world that will provide us with opportunities and challenges. It is a world marked by great bliss as well as horrible atrocities, making it crucial to defy cultural constraints and scrutinize deplorable conditions. As we become a more globalized society, we can only hope that the practice of ignoring the harmful practices across the border will stop and that there will be a growing recognition that what was once "their country" is now "our world." We have grown into a world that has opened its eyes to the problems that plague us. As we find ourselves perplexed by the myriad of predicaments presented before us, there is one certainty. We have graduated into a family of Honors Sisters which will be forever linked; it is a hallmark too precious to forsake.

Congratulations, Honors Class of 2001.



*Rebecca Teetsel, Katie Donovan*

## Decisions

*Dr. Kathleen Cravero received an Honor Diploma in CNR's first Honors graduating class in 1976. After her senior year Honors internship at the United Nations, Kathleen earned her doctorate in political science at Fordham University and was hired by UNICEF. She earned a Masters degree in Public Health from Columbia University and has been on assignment to other UN agencies (WHO, UNDP) in Chad, New York, Geneva, Uganda, and Burundi. She travels a great deal, speaking and writing her advocacy on global health issues. Since March 2000, she has been Deputy Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS based in Geneva, Switzerland, assisting in the management of the UNAIDS Secretariat and responsible for external relations and program support departments. Always willing to make time for CNR between trips and organizing conferences, she wrote articles for the Quarterly magazine and for the June 2001 Alum Femmes.*

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When I accepted the job as UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi, I knew the country's troubled history. The airport had been bombed just one month before I arrived and the fighting between Government and "rebel" groups had almost reached the capital. And so I expected to hear the sound of gunfire far into the night. I was not surprised to meet road blocks everywhere I went. I knew that half a million Burundians were refugees within their own country. These were all sources of stress, but they were obvious – and shared by all UN staff.

The most overwhelming, gut-wrenching challenge for me was more insidious: each day became a relentless series of life-and-death decisions. Decisions, for example on where food and supplies could be delivered, which in turn determined who would eat, who would freeze, who would get shelter from the wind and the rain. Decisions on which staff could be involved in these missions, and what level of security was sufficient. Decisions on how to interpret the onslaught of daily information, filled with conflicting facts from questionable sources, diverging views on the same situation, polar opposite explanations of the same events. Decisions on when the UN would co-

operate (however reluctantly) with Government edicts and when we would draw a line in the sand; decisions on when principles would prevail over collaboration, over expediency, over "getting the job done". What to believe, when to be firm, when to give in, when to take risks, when to hold back – every waking moment

was spent either making one of these choices or preparing for the next one.

Of course, Resident Coordinators are not alone in these decisions. There are programme committees, security teams, humanitarian coordination



*Kathleen among the children.*

groups – some more effective than others but all designed to help determine "risk thresholds", the term that experts used to describe this horrifying daily reality. But at the end of the day, it is one person who accepts responsibility for what happens; one person who is accountable for the collective judgement of the UN country team.

I am convinced that there is no way to prepare oneself for this level of responsibility. From the day I arrived in Burundi until the day I left, these decisions bore down on me – and never got easier. They haunt me still.

## ***Kathleen Cravero: Woman of Achievement***

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A woman is blessed if she can open her mind and her heart to hear her true calling and find deep satisfaction, stimulation, and rejuvenation in her life's work. The world is far more blessed when that woman chooses to take up challenges that affect the lives of individuals on a global scale. Kathleen Cravero Kristoffersson has listened to that call and remains open day after day to looking for the smallest ways to tackle the largest problems. She is a woman paving a path of steady progress filled with hope.

Over twenty-five years ago Kathleen accepted a heady intellectual challenge here at CNR. The College had recently formed the Honors Program, a curriculum instituted to give our strongest students the opportunity to study at a different level of independence, to explore their subjects with deeper focus, and to do not just more work, but qualitatively different work. As a student known for her intelligence and hard work, Kathleen was a perfect match – but it is unlikely that she or her professors could have imagined just how profound an impact she would have on the Program or vice versa.

For an assignment as an Honors student, Kathleen attended the United Nations Commission on Social Development. It was a project that would prove to be the springboard of an extraordinary career in the United Nations. For over two decades Kathleen has devoted her life to helping people, communities and governments to help themselves. As a staff member of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), she has worked for four UN organizations – UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, and currently the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Half of her career has been spent in Africa, in Chad, Uganda, and Burundi. Kathleen has spent the other half in New York and Geneva. Her missions have brought her to 35 countries. In 1999, she was

hailed a hero as the brave leader of a humanitarian convoy in Burundi that came under attack. Two members of her group were murdered, making the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace.

Kathleen approaches her work with humility and sensitivity, never assuming she knows more than the people she serves. She draws an incisive parallel between the common elements of her honors projects and the goals of her work at the UN: Her professors showed confidence in her good judgment, valued what she thought, and expected her to produce a quality product in the time given. Similarly, the goal of her

development work is to assist people to analyze problems, devise solutions, and take actions to improve their lives. Kathleen tells us that even after 20 years of international work, she approaches new challenges with relative optimism, assuming that through hard work and determination, she can rise to the occasion. She shares that gift of optimism with some of the neediest people around the world.

Over the years Kathleen has been a loyal alumna, participating in numerous panels, lectures, and programs. She has been an invaluable mentor to dozens of CNR students by providing them UN internships. Her commitment to The Honors Program endures, and she has been instrumental in its expansion.

Kathleen credits her time at CNR with broadening her horizons and fundamentally shaping her worldview. No graduate of The College of New Rochelle could pay her *alma mater* a higher compliment. Kathleen is a truly inspiring example of how a young student full of intellectual curiosity and an uncompromising commitment to serving others can become a leader of global change. The College of New Rochelle is proud and honored to present Kathleen Cravero Kristoffersson with the Woman of Achievement Award.

**“Kathleen approaches her work with humility and sensitivity, never assuming she knows more than the people she serves.”**

**-Woman of Achievement Award,  
June, 2001**

# Continued Stories...

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*(The Great Escape cont. from pg. 17)*

about our session, especially when our coordinator, Mary Job, was late due to traffic. But we had prepared well, having rehearsed and brought with us a packet of materials for participants. So, we started on time, asking the participants to tell us their name/rank/and serial number (or if you will, their school and background) and we did the same. Then, in walked Mary. We would have given the workshop without her, since Mary did a lot of hard work organizing the session and preparing us for the conference, but we were *thrilled* to see her. The rest of the workshop went along wonderfully and it was fun. I enjoyed talking to the different people who had a lot of the same experiences that we did. It was reassuring to discover that we were not the only publications with apathetic members, time crunches, and ambitious dreams.

The NE-NCHC Conference was a spectacular experience for me. It moved my learning from the classroom to the real world and gave me a chance to interact with bright students from across the region who understood my perspective. A weekend in a hotel is also a perk, considering how drab our dorms are. The learning never stopped and I met new people whom I hope to see at the next honors conference—Chicago, here I come!

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*(Pomp and Circumstance... in December cont. from pg. 13)*

legacy of an accomplished alumna and an altruistic (attention: GRE word) woman.

And so, the last semester of my studies is here. Yet, I still seem to be lost in the world of academia as if a freshman. It is still a world filled with promises and failures. The freshman look of fear, confusion and lack of sleep is fixed upon my face nowadays. Isn't it becoming? And while to the cheering crowds my December graduation is a victory, to me it is the beginning of a dark and scary uncertainty called life. I am the Undecided major after all.

*(The Study Abroad Experience cont. from pg. 12)*

four months?), and I've read a million travel books. But I still feel like I don't know what to expect.

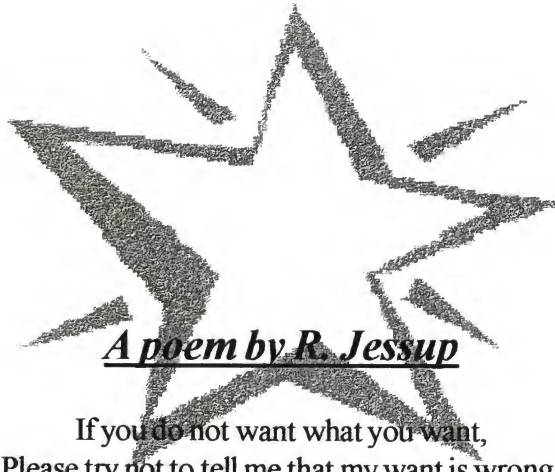
In studying abroad, there are a lot of things I hope to gain. The idea of exploring a big city with so much history gets my mind racing. The thought of being able to travel throughout Europe at a reasonable cost is simply unbelievable. I hope to absorb the culture and worldly experience that will prove invaluable in expanding my mind's ideas and paradigms. The people I meet will share in my experience and that will create a bond unlike those I've previously known. I am taking a Shakespeare class, something my science track normally wouldn't allow. And Shakespeare in London, how amazing is that? Being in an academic setting with people from all over the world will expose me to new perspectives and thought processes.

Of course, there is a lot that I'm worried about, too. I won't be home for four months. There is no going home for the weekend! And Thanksgiving, well, let's just say I don't think the English are real big on that. And calling home will be atrociously expensive, so that will be limited as well. I will miss my friends and loved ones immensely, but it's the price to pay for the experience of a lifetime. My flight will be long, and my mind will be restless, but the journey that lies ahead is coming within reach. I simply cannot wait.

*You can write Sarah at:*

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# ★ Creative Corner ★



## A poem by R. Jessup

If you do not want what you want,  
Please try not to tell me that my want is wrong.

Of if I believe other than you,  
at least pause before you correct my view.

Or if my emotion is less than yours,  
or more, given the same circumstances,  
try not to ask me to feel more strongly or weakly.

Or yet if I act, or fail to act,  
in the manner of your design for action, let me be.

I do not, for the moment at least,  
ask you to understand me.

That will come only when you are willing  
to give up changing me into a copy of you.

I may be your spouse, your parent, your offspring,  
your friend, or your colleague.

If you allow me any of my own wants,  
or beliefs, or actions, then you open your-self  
so that someday these wants of mine  
might not seem so wrong,  
and might finally appear to you as right – for me.  
To put up with me is the first stop in understanding  
me.

Not that you are no longer irritated or disappointed  
with me for my seeming waywardness.  
And in understanding me you might come to prize  
my differences from you, and far from seeking to  
change me,  
preserve and even nurture those differences...  
For I am A Force of one to Reckon.

## Cool Women

They smile when they want to scream.

They sing when they want to cry.

They cry when they are happy and laugh when they  
are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.

They stand up for injustice.

They don't take "no" for an answer when they  
believe there is a better solution.

They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.

They love unconditionally.

They cry when their family excels and cheer when  
their friends get awards.

They are happy when they hear about a birth or a  
new marriage.

Their hearts break when a friend dies.

They have sorrow at the loss of a family member,  
yet they are strong when they think there is no  
strength left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken  
heart.

Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes.

They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show  
how much they care about you.

The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin!

Women do more than just give birth.

They bring joy and hope.

They give compassion and ideals.

They give moral support to their family and friends.

Women have a lot to say and a lot to give.



# Opportunities...

Would you like to see your work published? The **Undergraduate Publications Directory** is the world's only on-line resource for undergraduate publications. The UPD welcomes submissions from undergraduates studying anywhere. Check out the UPD's two-dozen publications in which you can place your work. <http://www.mercyhurst.edu/UPD/ung>.

Have you ever thought about **studying in Korea**? Well, now you can! The 2002 NCHC Honors Semester is going to be held in Daegu, South Korea at Keimyung University. Deadlines for applications are September 30, 2001 for the early deadline and November 1, 2001 for the regular deadline. Contact Dr. Petrullo for more information.

Interested in **International Studies**? The Rotary Centers for International Studies is encouraging scholars to travel to foreign countries to advance their knowledge on issues of peace and conflict resolution among the next generation of community and world leaders. For an application, contact your local Rotary Club or go to [http://www.rotary.org/programs/amb\\_scho/index.htm](http://www.rotary.org/programs/amb_scho/index.htm).

Send in your comments!

[www.cnr.edu/home/honors](http://www.cnr.edu/home/honors)

Or feel free to stop by and drop off your submissions in the Honors Center in the Castle.